

**IMPROVEMENTS IN HANDHELD DEVICES****ABSTRACT**

[0041] A handheld electronic device comprises a housing around which a plurality of input keys is disposed. The input keys are placed around the housing at locations where fingers will naturally land when the handheld device is being held in an average-sized hand. An interfacing and processing unit is coupled to the plurality of keys and responds to actuation of a selected combination of at least one key by generating data representing a character. In one embodiment the processing unit is arranged to control the display to display an indication of characters that will be input if a combination of one or more input keys is actuated by the user.